

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Coalesced wax particles on a surface produced in accordance with the steps of:

providing a coating composition comprising particles of a polyolefin wax suspended in a liquid phase comprising alcohol and water or particles of a mixture of components comprising polyolefin waxes suspended in a liquid phase comprising alcohol and water, wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes, polypropylene waxes, oxidized polyethylene waxes and oxidized polypropylene waxes and where the boiling point ~~or boiling point range~~ of the liquid phase is lower than the melting point ~~or melting point range~~ of the polyolefin wax or the mixture of polyolefin waxes, or where the boiling point range of the liquid phase is lower than the melting point range of the polyolefin wax or the mixture of polyolefin waxes,

applying the coating composition to a surface
evaporating the liquid phase from the applied coating composition, and

subjecting the dried, applied coating composition to a heating treatment to coalesce said wax particles.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The coalesced wax particles on a surface according to claim 1 wherein the coating composition, calculated on weight basis, contains:

polyolefin wax/mixture of polyolefin waxes 1 - 25 %
and liquid phase 99 - 75 %.

4. (Previously Presented) The coalesced wax particles on a surface according to claim 3 wherein the coating composition, calculated on weight basis, contains up to 10% auxiliary agents selected from the group consisting of diluting agents, dispersing agents, conservation agents, emulsifying agents, and colouring agents.

5. (Previously Presented) The coalesced wax particles on a surface according to claim 1 wherein the polyolefin wax or one of the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is a polyethylene wax.

6. (Previously Presented) The coalesced wax particles on a surface according to claim 5 wherein the particle size of the polyethylene wax is between 0.1 and 100 μm .

7. (Previously Presented) The coalesced wax particles on a surface according to claim 5 wherein the melting point of the polyethylene wax is between 70 and 200°C.

8. (Previously Presented) The coalesced wax particles on a surface according to claim 5 wherein the polyethylene wax is a high-density polyethylene, HDPE.

9. (Previously Presented) The coalesced wax particles on a surface according to claim 1 wherein the polyolefin wax or one of the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes suspended in the coating composition is a polypropylene wax.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a surface comprising the steps of

- providing a coating composition comprising particles of a polyolefin wax suspended in a liquid phase

comprising alcohol and water or particles of a mixture of components of polyolefin waxes suspended in a liquid phase comprising alcohol and water, wherein the polyolefin wax or the components in the mixture of polyolefin waxes are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene waxes, polypropylene waxes, ~~and oxidized polyethylene waxes and oxidized polypropylene waxes~~, and where the boiling point ~~or boiling point range~~ of the liquid phase is lower than the melting point ~~or melting point range~~ of the polyolefin wax or the mixture of polyolefin waxes, or where the boiling point range of the liquid phase is lower than the melting point range of the polyolefin wax,

- applying said coating composition to the surface,
- evaporating said liquid phase from the applied coating composition, and
- subjecting said dried, applied coating composition to a heating treatment to coalesce said wax particles.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein the coating composition is applied to the surface by spraying.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein the coating composition is applied to the surface in an amount of 50 to 350 ml per m².

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of surfaces of monuments; buildings; constructions having surface structures made of steel, aluminium, sandstone, marble, granite, slate, cement, fibre-reinforced cement, bricks, tiles, fibre glass-reinforced materials, and wood; public and private transportation vehicles; road and traffic signs; sheets; and ship hulls.

14. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a structure with a surface obtained by the method according to claim 10.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of treating a surface according to claim 10, wherein said dried, applied coating composition is subjected to a heating treatment to raise the temperature of the dried coating composition to bring said particles of a polyolefin wax or of a mixture of polyolefin waxes into a coalescing state allowing said wax particles to provide a continuous coating of the surface, and

allowing said heat treated coating composition to consolidate to a protective coating.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein the coating composition is applied to the surface by spraying.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein the coating composition is applied to the surface in an amount of 50 to 350 ml per m².

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of surfaces of monuments; buildings; constructions having surface structures made of steel, aluminium, sandstone, marble, granite, slate, cement, fibre-reinforced cement, bricks, tiles, fibre glass-reinforced materials, and wood; public and private transportation vehicles; road and traffic signs; sheets; and ship hulls.

19. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a structure with a surface obtained by the method according to claim 15.

20. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a structure with a surface obtained by use of the coating composition according to claim 1.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said surface is the surface of a sheet and where said coating composition is applied to at least one surface of the sheet.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the sheet comprises an adhesive layer having a first major adhesive layer side and a second major adhesive layer side which defines the bottom surface of the sheet and a film having a first major film side and a second major film side, said second major film side being bonded to the first major adhesive layer side, and the coating composition being applied to said first major film side.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said surface is the surface of a sheet and where said coating composition is applied to at least one surface of the sheet.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the sheet is a film.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claims 23, wherein the sheet comprises an adhesive layer having a first major adhesive layer side and a second major adhesive layer side which defines the bottom surface of the sheet and a film having a first major film side and a second major film side, said second major film side being bonded to the first major adhesive layer side; and the coating composition being applied to said first major film side.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claims 23, wherein the sheet comprises an adhesive layer having a first major adhesive layer side and a second major adhesive layer side which defines the bottom surface of the sheet and two or more films each having a first major film side and a second major film side, and each film is stacked upon another film such that a second major film side of a film above is bonded to a first major film side of a film below except the lowest film in the stacked which has its second major film side bonded to the first major adhesive layer side, and the coating composition is applied to the topmost side of the film.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the sheet comprises two or more pairs of layers, each pair of layers comprising an adhesive layer having a first major adhesive layer side and a second major adhesive layer side, and a film having a first major film side and a second major film side with the second major film side being bonded to the first major adhesive layer side; and each pair of layers is stacked upon another pair of layers such that a second major adhesive layer side of a pair above is bonded to a first major film side of a pair of layers below, and the coating composition being applied to the topmost side of said film.

28. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a sheet treated by the method of any of claims 21 or 23.

29. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 28 further comprising a liner bonded to a major sheet surface.

30. (Previously Presented) A structure which has been covered fully or in part with an article of claim 28, wherein the structure is selected from the group consisting of

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buildings, parts of buildings, elevators, windows, doors,
tiles, walls, partitions, furniture, signs, bill boards,
artwork, buses, trains, subway-trains, and automobiles.

31-89. (Cancelled)